Joseph Smith had planned a Rocky Mountain sanctuary for the Sai realizing it was the only place where they could be safe from mobs and fre practice their religion. To build a city in a day would require a place complet away from other people or their influence. To have a government of their o would require a separation from United States Control, and a sanctuary in t Rocky Mountains, then Mexican territory would allow such a government. Th not even the devil, their enemies of Missouri and Illinois, could dig them out get to them. Smith knew from stories brought back by explorers that the clim there would be a healthful one, unlike the swamps of the Mississippi Valley, a the longevity of the Latter Day Saints in their mountain home has certai vindicated his prophesy of living a long, full life there. Later events wo reveal that under Brigham Young's leadership the Saints would emigrate t choice land already seen in vision by Joseph Smith. The move would come soo than any could expect, for on September 9th, 1845 the church's Council of Fi resolved that an exploring company should be selected to go to the Great S Lake Valley to gather information relative to emigration there.[29]

It had been more than a year since that awful day at Carthage when t raised arm of the fiend Worrell had been for a moment turned to stone as sought to sever the head of Joseph Smith from his body. Since that time Worr and Levi Williams had often led the mobs as they whipped, burned, and kill During those terrible days, Sheriff J.B. Backenstos tried in vain to uphold the l and protect the Saints. Finally the mobs turned on the sheriff and threaten both him and his family with violence. On September 16th, 1845 Sheri Backenstos began moving his family out of Nauvoo, but he was seen and follow by an armed mob on horseback. The sheriff and his family were racing for th lives when they came upon a band of Mormons using their wagons to haul so neighbor's possessions whose homes had been burned. Among them were Jose Murdock, Porter Rockwell, and Peter Conover. Sheriff Backenstos called to the for help as one of the riders raced up close behind him.. Porter Rockwell kn to aim his rifle and then fired a single shot. His bullet struck the rider de center on his belt buckle, and he was knocked from his horse and fell to t ground dead. That rider proved to be Frank Worrell, the man who tried to c

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29. History of the Church, Pg. 379.

off the Prophet's head after he was murdered at Carthage.[30] The fiend of Carthage prison was dead, and Joseph and those who had witnessed his death couldn't help but think, "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord!"

Meanwhile the great Nauvoo temple was completed, and Joseph helped guard it while howling mobs swore to tear it down. Even though their world seemed to be coming apart, Joseph and his family continued to labor in the work of the Lord. On January 25th, 1845 Joseph's brother John Deans Murdock married Mary Jane Norris in the new Nauvoo temple. We know not what, if anything, happened to Jeanette Risell, according to Joseph's journal the girl John Deans married at New York.

But an even stranger mystery was in the making, for John's new wife had a brother in New York State, Benny Norris, then only 7 years old, who came with his parents to Nauvoo to be with his sister. His father, David Norris, was a blacksmith at Nauvoo, and during the fighting there in September, 1846 he was killed while defending the city from the mobs who were burning it. Mrs. Norris died during the exodus from Nauvoo, leaving poor Benny to fend for himself, since his sister and her husband John Deans had already fled the burning city.

Young Benny Norris became just another of the homeless thousands wandering hungry and alone on the frozen prairie. But he knew his sister had moved west, and somehow he set out to find her, and against all odds he succeeded. The story of Benny Norris and his life with the Murdocks was destined to be as strange a tale as any ever heard on the frontier.

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30. Diary of Peter Conover, Utah State Historical Society, and The Carthage Conspiracy, Pg. 195, Dallin Oaks, University of Illinois Press, 1975.

Jos. Stacy Murdock Book

John Deans Murdock

The strange story of Benny Norris took still another strange twist, for only a few weeks after the arrival of Joseph's pioneers and the Spencer-Eldredge Party, young Benny, only 7 years old, walked into the valley. He had wandered barefoot and alone across the plains. He had an Indian arrow in his shoulder which he would never talk about, nor would anyone ever learn in what kind of encounter he was wounded. He would only say that sometimes he would pass or be passed by other travelers, some of whom gave him things to eat. At other times he would find a few scraps of food on the prairie, or a piece of meat where some wild animal had been killed. He said that some travelers had offered him a ride but he refused, saying that he had to hurry ahead to find his sister, Mary Jane Norris, who was on the trail somewhere ahead.

After her husband John had been buried in an unmarked Indian grave at Sarpe's Point on the Mississippi, Mary Jane and her mother began walking

10. Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 14, Pg. 98.

11. The Gathering Of Zion, Pg. 31, Stegner, McGraw-Hill, 1964.

westward, just two of the thousands who were lost during the great exodus from Nauvoo. Somewhere along the trail Mrs. Norris died, leaving Mary Jane alone and Benny forgotten and wandering somewhere on the endless prairie. Mary Jane somehow found passage with a wagon train heading for Zion, but Benny was not so lucky. At Salt Lake City, Joseph adopted Benny Norris and he was raised by the Murdocks, living part of the time with Sally and Nymphus and later with Joseph. There would be much more to his strange story as time passed.[12]

12. Men of the Rockies, Pg. 48, N.C. Hanks, 1944.

Fisher—they built a number of small homes on the property which he rented to men working at the Park Utah Mine.

The Benjamin Norris property was known for an American Flag that he painted on a cliff near his home. The flag can be seen from the highway, and was repainted yearly under the direction of Isabelle Baum who maintained the tradition until her death since then it has been painted by Veterans of Foreign Wars of Heber.

Hailstone's greatest industrial development, apart from its support to the mining industry, came in 1929 when the Great Lakes Timber Company was established by Elmer Peterson, a Denver lumberman, and Michael J. Sweeney, a veteran western timberman. The lumbering operation prospered and in 1933 Mr. Sweeney became general manager and then sole owner in 1946. The company continued with its headquarters at Hailstone until 1960 when it moved to LaPoint in Unitah County. Before it moved from Hailstone the company was one of the largest industrial lumber and timber companies in the country. Recreational developments in forest land had reduced the available cutting timber in the Hailstone area of the Wasatch National Forest, which necessitated the move away from the area.

Schools and a branch of the Church existed for a time in Hailstone. The first school and a small cabin across the road from the William D. Moulton home. George Wootton was the first teacher and taught just one year. The next school was held in a little log cabin near the Cluff home and continued there several years until a larger building was constructed near Keetley to handle all the school children in the area. The Elkhorn Branch of the Church also held its meetings here.

A new, red brick school house was finally built in Keetley and was used by all the families in the area until the Wasatch School Board consolidated schooling in the Heber schools.

Some farming and dairy operations still continue at Hailstone, but motorists driving through the area on a new, widened highway hardly slow down now as they pass through what used to be homes, farms and buildings of a very happy people.

THE "OTHER FACES" OF WASATCH 1121

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PROVO CANYON

Settlers first coming to Provo Valley traveled through Provo Canyon, and some were intrigued enough by its beauty and potential that they began to settle at spots through the canyon. Several resorts and fun spots some of which were in the Wasatch County area were established.

One of the most colorful canyon characters was a Scotsman, William "Billy" Ferguson. He settled in the canyon about 1863 as operator of toll gates at Spring Dell and Vivian Park. Midway between Provo City and Heber he built a famous roadhouse with surrounding camping spots and fishing areas. He especially enjoyed flowers, pets and fruit trees. His friends called him a "born optimist" for he found happiness in every-